



J F A C T

Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut
40 Woodland Street Hartford, CT 06105
Phone: (860) 727-5770 Fax: (860) 727-5767
Email: jfact@mcmgmt.com

Robert Tendler
President

Robert D. Lesser
Chair

Lindy Lee Gold
Vice President

Arlene Elovich
Vice President

Jason Newman
Treasurer

Edward Rosenblatt
Secretary

Robert J. Fishman
Executive Director

Constituent Jewish Federations:

Greater Danbury
Eastern Connecticut
Eastern Fairfield
Greenwich
Greater Hartford
Greater New Haven
Greater Stamford-
New Canaan- Darien
Western Connecticut
Westport-Weston Wilton-Norwalk

March 13, 2013 Testimony before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee in Support of SB 29, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation, and other Purposes.

Senator Fonfara and Representative Widlitz and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on SB 29, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation, and other Purposes. For the record, my name is Robert Fishman and I am the Executive Director of JFACT, the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut, which represents the 9 Federation in our state, 20 Jewish Day and High Schools, as well as 4 Jewish Community Centers, and 8 Jewish Family Service Agencies.

Since 2001, both Homeland Security and the FBI send to us periodic alerts cautioning the Jewish community to be aware of attacks on our Jewish institutions. There have been incidences of terror attacks in past years in New York, Los Angeles and Seattle and 2 employees were killed. The Federal government has established a program for nonprofit security assistance and over the years both Jewish schools, synagogues, churches and mosques have received funding as well as Jewish agencies such as the Mandell Jewish Community Center in West Hartford. When it comes to security, the federal government does not view the problem as separation of Church and State. We are extremely pleased that Governor Malloy has proposed in this bill under Section 9(e) (2) a competitive grant program for school security in the amount of \$10 million dollars. We have spoken to the Governor's office to amend section 9(e)(2) from Public to Public and Private to compete for such grants with Public schools. We strongly believe the State should support this change of wording as all schools are equally at risk for the same type of terrible tragedy as the one that occurred at the Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14th, 2013.

As you know, the state generously provides bus transportation, nursing and other related specialized services such as occupational, physical and speech therapy to Parochial schools. It seems reasonable for this new proposed allotment of \$10 million for security needs for schools be made available to our Private schools as well as our Public schools.

I urge you to support amending section 9 to include Private schools for the security grant program.

Warmest Regards,

Robert J. Fishman

Executive Director
Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut(JFACT)
40 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105
Phone 860-727-5701 , cell 860-916-5869
www.jfact.org

The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) serves as a legislative representative for the nine Connecticut Jewish Federations and their associated agencies, an associate for the Jewish Community, a public affairs spokesperson and coordinator on statewide programs on issues of mutual interest and concern in the state of Connecticut and Israel.